

Special Issue

Understanding and Responding to Aquifer Vulnerability and Associated Health Risks

Message from the Guest Editor

The precarity of groundwater warrants special attention from researchers, engineers and policy makers—as well as from communities, farmers and other businesses that depend on them for health, well-being, livelihood and economic sustainability. For towns, cities and regions, groundwater may constitute their ‘lifeblood’, directly and indirectly impacting them in powerful ways at multiple spatial and temporal scales that defy simple characterization and that call for integrated stewardship. Groundwater is a primary dynamic component of hydrobiogeochemical systems, affecting ecosystems and the species that inhabit them—including humans.

How do we better understand the vulnerability of aquifers and associated health risks? How do we better protect and conserve these most valuable, grossly under-appreciated natural resources and ecological assets? What kinds of knowledge, insights and practical experiences can we share?

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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Editor-in-Chief

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